

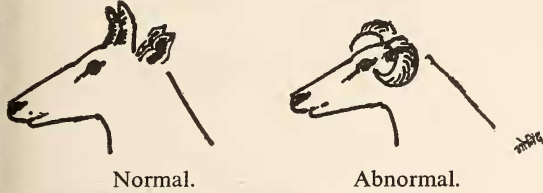
4. ABNORMAL HORNS IN THE NILGAI

(With a text-figure)

In April 1978 during my study of the wild dogs of Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary (Bhandara District), I located a pack at the water hole

at Umarzari, While walking towards them I saw a Nilgai-bull grazing in a plantation. The shape of its horn was unusual. It was curved down like a sheep's horn instead of the straight and vertical normal horn.

I inquired with local Shikaris and tribals and understood that such horns among the Nilgai, though rare, have been noted and such bulls are known as Mendha nilgai meaning sheep nilgai.



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5. GROOMING OF CHITAL BY LANGUR IN KANHA NATIONAL PARK, INDIA

A close association is known to exist between Hanuman langurs (*Presbytis entellus*) and chital deer (*Axis axis*) (Beck & Tuttle 1972, Nagel & Lohri 1973). Langurs drop large quantities of foliage, buds, flowers and fruits from trees while foraging which are subsequently utilized by chital. Close affinity may develop between a band of chital and a troop of langurs with the chital following a langur troop about the forest (Paul Newton, pers. comm.). In this note we record an observation of a langur grooming a chital in Kanha National Park in Madhya Pradesh in central India.

At 1320 hrs on 12 January 1982, we were travelling on elephant back through a mature Sal (*Shorea robusta* Roxb.) forest 5 km. S. of Kanha Village when we disturbed a small band of chital and associated troop of at least 10 langurs. One adult chital doe ran

several metres, and stopped to watch us. When she stopped adjacent to an adult langur of unknown sex, the langur immediately walked toward the chital and began grooming its right rear flank while sitting on the ground behind the chital. We watched the grooming behaviour for at least 1 minute as the chital remained alert and motionless.

Langurs have been observed grooming domestic dogs (*Canis familiaris*) in Jodhpur (Sharma 1977) in an artificial association created by man. Toque macaques (*Macaca sinica*) in Sri Lanka have been observed grooming langurs but reciprocation has not been observed (W.P.J. Dittus, pers. comm.).

The natural association between chital and langurs appears to offer distinct advantages to chital since langurs knock food down from trees, and also elicit alarm calls when preda-

tors are observed. The relationship may be symbiotic commensalism because chital also give alarm calls when predators are detected

and Roonwal and Mohnot (1977) suggest their sense of smell is keener than that of langurs.

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6. MATING BEHAVIOUR OF THE PLUMBEOUS DOLPHIN, *SOUSA PLUMBEA*, CUVIER, 1829

Free wild cetaceans are notoriously difficult to study for obvious reasons. Most of their activity and behavioural repertoire must take place beneath the water and out of sight of the human observer. Because there are so few written accounts of the behaviour of even the smaller dolphin species outside of the artificial conditions of aquaria and captivity, it seems worthwhile recording in detail obser-

vations made of a group of Plumbeous Dolphins in the Indus delta which corresponds closely with previous reported possible mating behaviour (see Pilleri *et al.* "Cetaceans of Southwest and Monsoon Asia", 1973-74).

The Plumbeous Dolphin (*Sousa plumbea*), is a neritic species preferring to feed close in shore and in tidal creeks and mangrove channels. It is a relatively large dolphin (adults